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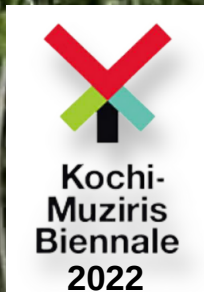
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FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

- Amazing to know
- Kala Bhavana Degree Show
- Book review
- Whisky Cocktail



MUNROE ISLAND

A GEM IN THE BACKWATERS

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

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Editor's Note**KERALA BACKWATERS**

Kerala Backwaters which is synonymous with Kerala is a scenic network of lakes, rivers, lagoons, and canals that is parallel to the Arabian Sea coast and runs inland in the coast of Kerala, from Cochin to Kollam (Quilon) and Best Time to visit Kerala Backwaters will be based on what kind of cruise you want to enjoy on your holiday.

The long coastline of around 590 kilometers on one side and western ghats on the other side in Kerala ensures that the climate of Kerala is neither too hot nor too cold, one of the reasons because of which it is slowly emerging as an all-season destination, although the period between October and April are considered best, as this time offers moderate temperatures around Kerala, making it ideal to visit the marvelous state.

The best time to visit Kerala Backwaters is Winter Season from September to March. However, Kerala backwaters are ideal for a visit at any time of the year. Winter Season in Kerala is considered the best time for visiting Kerala to enjoy the experience of the tranquil, palm-fringed backwaters of Kerala.



Happy Reading...!!

Varghese T. Thomas



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AMAZING TO KNOW

This magnificent stone Murti is in Sri Annapoorneshwari Temple, located at Horanadu, on the banks of River Bhadra in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka. Situated in the dense forest and valleys of the Western Ghats.

Source: Archaeology & Art



Arbil Castle is located in northern #Iraq. Its #history goes back about 6000 years. It covers an area of about 11,000 square meters and is 431 meters above sea level and 25 meters above ground level. Inside it is about .500 ancient ehous

Source: Ancient History &
Modern Archaeology



AMAZING TO KNOW

The structure of the palace of Ardashir consists of some special Features such as containing three domes.

The structure is 104 m (340 ft) by 55 m (180 ft), it was built of local rocks and mortar with plasterwork on the insides.

Source: Ancient Scientists

The Sarcophagi of Carajia (Spanish: Sarcófagos de Carajia, or Karajia) are unusually large pre-Inca Chachapoyas culture sarcophagi at the archaeological site of Carajia in the Utcubamba Valley, located 48 km northwest of the city of Chachapoyas, Peru in Luya Province, Amazonas Region. The site contains eight Chachapoyan mummies were discovered on the cliffside, referred to by local residents as the "ancient wise men".

Source: Archaeology & Art



AMAZING TO KNOW

About 2,700 years ago, many ancient Greek 'city-states' founded colonies in the peninsula of Crimea and there they found the "tumuli" or "kurgans" (burial mounds) which had been used for a long time by the local inhabitants, the Scythians.

Source: Archaeology and Art



The roof of Begumpuri Mosque, that has now caved in. Though huge in size, next only to its Mughal successor, the Jama Masjid, the Begumpuri Mosque is simple in terms of decoration and has a geometric layout, an essential feature of the Timurid architecture that dominates this mosque. Built during the 14th century, it finds its place in the seven renowned mosques built by the Prime Minister of Feroz Shah Tughlaq's court, Khan-i-Jahan-Junan Shah.

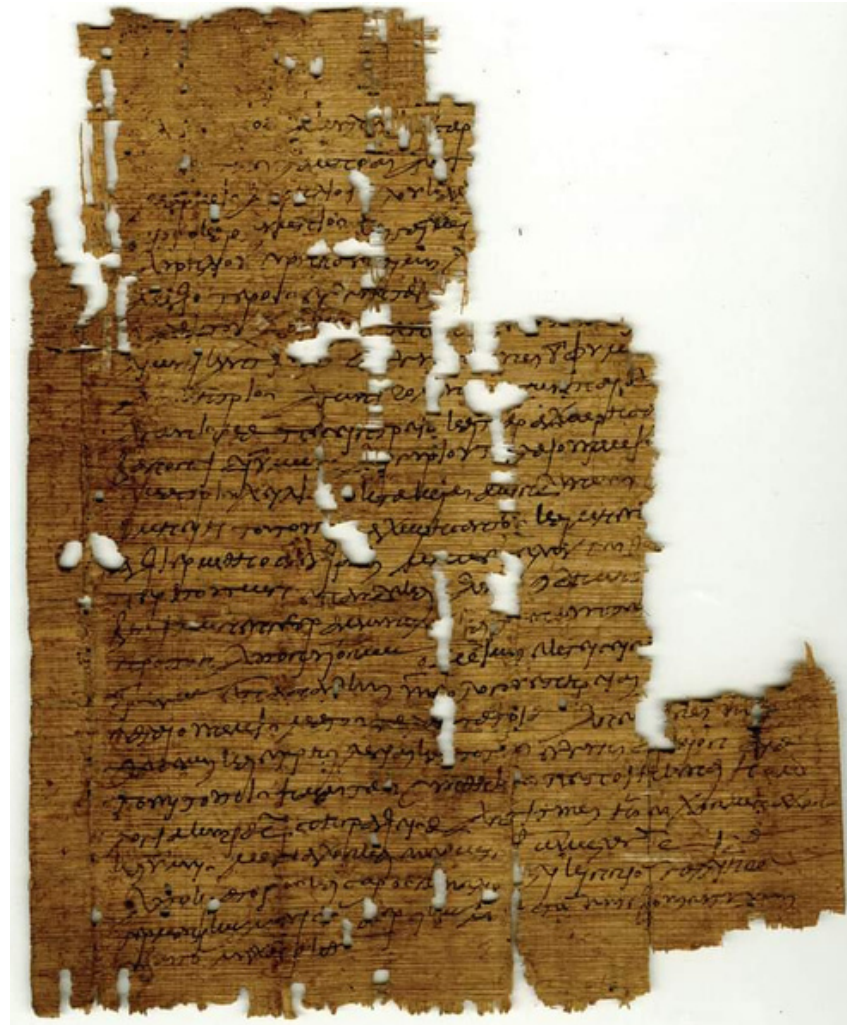
Source: Speaking Archaeology



AMAZING TO KNOW

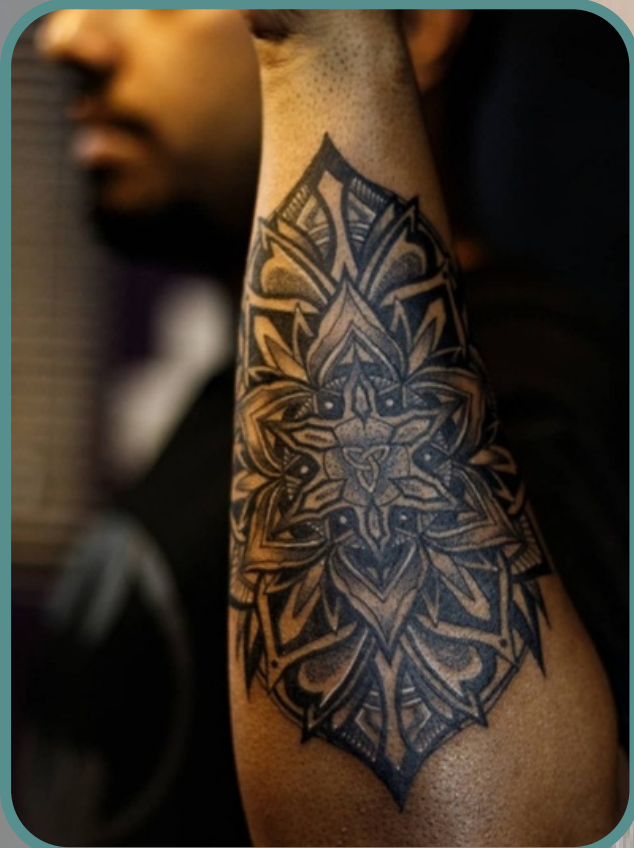
Proof that match fixing was alive and well in Roman-era Egypt was discovered on a papyrus fragment detailing an A.D. 267 contract between two teenage wrestlers, stipulating that one "must fall three times and yield," for which he would be paid 3,800 drachmas.

(Courtesy Egypt Exploration Society)



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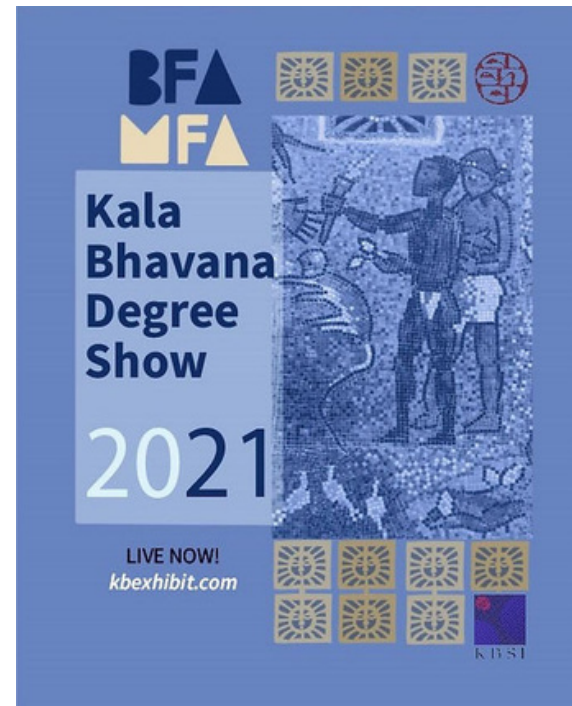




Visva Bharati | Santiniketan

SERIES - 1

A vibrant collective of Kala Bhavan students that aims to showcase the artworks and initiatives born out of the faculty. The aim is to bring the heritage art colleges current pedagogy to the spotlight and illuminate emerging generations of artists. KBSI was born out of necessity during the unpredictable time of the pandemic, now aims to build an archive of all facets of the "Kala Bhavan" life.

**ABHIJIT SHAW****UNDERGRADUATE // SCULPTURE**



Kala Bhavana

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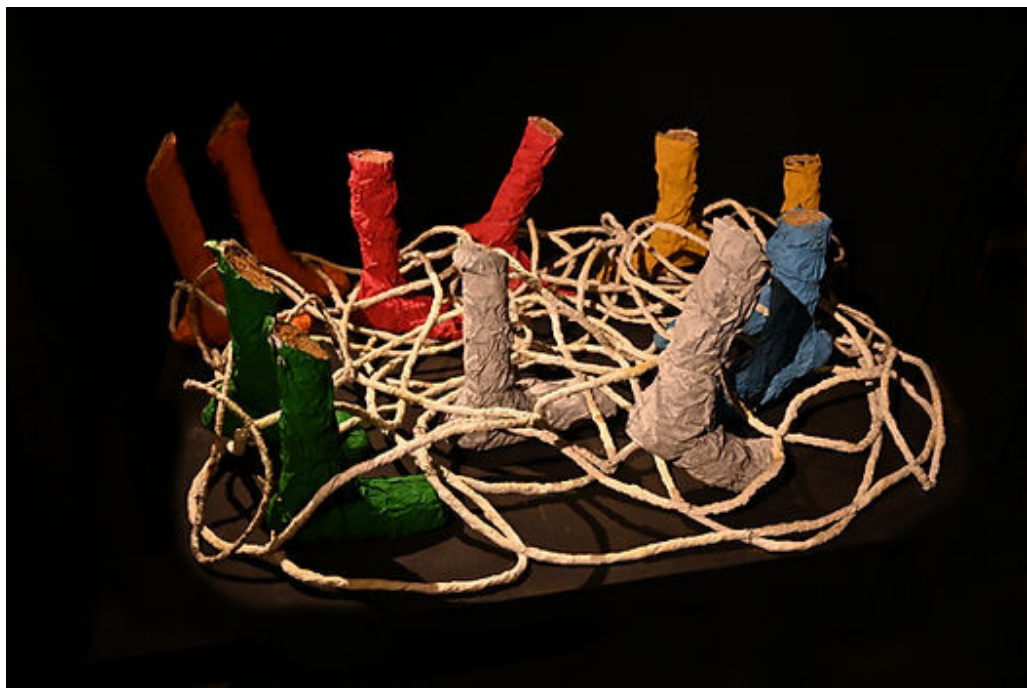


ABHIJIT SHAW
UNDERGRADUATE //
SCULPTURE

Artist's Statement :

I am just trying to show this problem through my works of art. A person is carrying his dead body himself because there is no one to help him. The skin or leather has become sick, looking leprous. The head has been separated from the body. I have tried to represent a work where a foot is in good condition but has turned filarial in the other leg. Man is living his livelihood with his great pain. Man has become helpless and is living their life in such conditions. My work depends on waste material. I have used straw and a special kind of newspaper.

At first, I have used to draw the sculptures. I have used newspaper because it can be folded easily. I have also used egg cartons, which I had soaked for a day in water. I have used fevicol, tutte (Copper sulphate) to keep my work protected from insects or fungus. We can also use it as clay. There is another roughness in texture. My works are therefore made of materials that are not harmful for our environment.





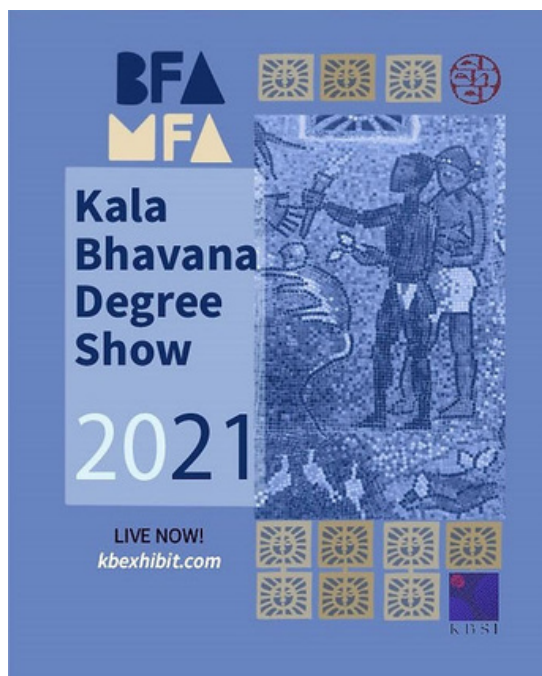
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SERIES - 2

ABIRA BAGCHI

UNDERGRADUATE // TEXTILE





Kala Bhavana

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ABIRA BAGCHI

UNDERGRADUATE // TEXTILE



Artist's Statement :

I assume my works have always originated from my surroundings, the people I encounter in everyday life in a physical space, or somehow my emotional attachments to some thoughts which turn out to be a reaction or narration of a specific time. Nurturing the fibres, their process of untangling and their rearrangements connects me to a feeling of solving problems. Working in a textile medium is very undulating. Within textile, each medium has its own possibilities as well as difficulties like different states of nature. It seems to be more liberating for me when different mediums overlap into one another.

The physical conclusion of one composition leads to the emergence of a new idea.

Previously I used to work with different forms and shapes, and depending on emotions the colours used to change, but the lockdown has changed not only my practice, but also my self. Everything in life is uncertain. This realisation has become stronger thus the concentration of waves and patterns are becoming a more dominant part for my works as of now.





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MUNROE ISLAND

An Offbeat Backwaters Gem in Kerala

Travalogue by Upasana Kakati
PC: Upasana / Pinterest

Kerala has been blessed with a plethora of picturesque landscape, but the hidden gems are those blissful small hamlets, tucked away from the major tourist places. The charming villages, calming backwaters, boating on the vast expanse of Ashtamudi Lake, warm smiles and all shades of nature – beautifully sums up the aura of Munroe Island.



Surrounded by the gentle breeze of the lake and rustling of the trees, Munroe Island is a paradise to your roving soul. The sky turns into a colorful canvas at the crack of the dawn. The coconut trees sway to the wind on the banks of the lake. The smell of the herb cooked fish brews into the air from the nearby restaurants. It is a place where people communicate with smiles breaking the language barrier. >>



MUNROE ISLAND

The offbeat backwater paradise of Kerala is less frequented by tourist. The charisma of the small settlement is beautifully preserved through its pristine natural offerings. Time stops in this small cluster of Island locally called Munrothuruthu. The cluster of 8 island is in Kollam District, at confluence of Kallada River and Ashtamudi River. The silent sweeps of the backwaters turn the place completely idyllic.

The essence of travelling expands a trillion times living with the locals. The best bet to know more the culture and hideouts of Munroe Island was to stay at a homestay – in constant company of a local host family. Munroe Island has several homestays, for a warm, extremely hospitable and memorable stay.

Not only did we see and explore Munroe Island in a different light, but it also gave us an insight about their traditions, culture, belief, food habits and religious values. The homestay host ensured we get to know things better by explaining the rituals of ongoing festival in the adjacent temple. The free bicycles were the brownie points. >>



MUNROE ISLAND



Cycle around the Narrow Lanes

Riding a bicycle through the rickety countryside lanes of Munroe Island was completely liberating. Munroe Island, on a personal front, will be very special for me because it was my first time in 30 years, I rode a bicycle.



For someone, who has never ridden a bicycle, the experience of riding the cycle through the untouched corners was exciting. There was a lot of panic – riding on the main road with the vehicles storming past, but it boosted my confidence. The bicycle is the best way to explore Munroe Island – ride past the quaint homes, on the road along the lake and to all the hidden gems.

Sunrise Boat Ride on Backwaters

Early mornings are the greatest gift to humanity – the silence in the aura and the subtle surrounding, makes it all pacifying. Adding a soul to this is the sound of the calming backwaters, as the country boat rowed past the narrow passage of water into the vast expanse of the lake. The dawn slowly unfolded and painted the sky into a palette of vibrant colors. As we sat, being rowed on the wobbly boat, the gentle breeze unfurled its way welcoming the bright day ahead. It was a moment of tranquil, an experience that will stay knitted to my soul. The best part of the boat ride was spotting numerous birds including eagles. >>

MUNROE ISLAND



Chase those Soul Feeding Sunsets

Sunsets are always phenomenal, no matter how many times you have watched it. But digging those sunsets from a place that is only known to the locals without any tourist is epic. The best part of staying in the homestay is Ajith – our host, took us to a hidden spot for the sunset. As the sun set, the cloud beautifully spread a golden orange glow in the sky. Munroe Island is a place that will feed your soul with gorgeous sunsets and natural bliss, if you know the right place. The hidden corners, known by the locals, are great way to connect to nature.



Attend a Temple Festival

If you are in Munroe Island at the right time, you will witness pomp and show, devotion and religious ceremonies in the local temple. There was a 10-day religious festival going on in the temple adjacent to our homestay.

The whole village participated in the festival, food was prepared and served in the temple during day and ceremonies continued till evening. We witnessed the 2nd last and last day of the ceremony. >>

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MUNROE ISLAND



The last night of the ceremony has couple of interesting rituals with men in their traditional attire beating drums. The last night religious rituals were dedicated to snake worship.

The arena was cleared and decorated, people settled around to observe the function and young girls (who haven't hit puberty) were worshipped. It was interesting to witness the colorful religious ceremonies.



The last day of the religious ceremony was the onset of Pongal. Early morning, women of the villages were ready with their utensils to prepare payasam (sweet rice) seated next to each other in the field, within the temple ground.

Each of the women, had their own fire arrangement and ingredients to prepare the sweet dish together. The first offering from the preparation was given to almighty and rest was packed back home.

>>

MUNROE ISLAND

Get an Ayurvedic Massage

Kerala Ayurvedic Massage is one of the most popular massage, infused with herbal and medicinal oil. The medicinal properties of the massage help in reducing pain, boost immune system, enhance circulation and relaxes your system.

There are a few Ayurvedic massage centers in Munroe Island that you can try to calm your nerves. However, the massage can be oily, and smell of the herb infused oil will longer than you think.

Have a Sumptuous Traditional Meal

The food in Kerala can be a little confusing for a lot of people. However, if you are a fish person, the herb and spice covered fish is something that must not be missed. The fish is fried or roasted and slowly cooked in traditional spices, the taste and aroma spreading through the gastronomical senses. A traditional meal is served in the homestays or in couple of restaurants around Munroe Island. Everything is cooked in coconut oil; rice is fluffy and plump and there is a lot of sour in the curry. However, a traditional Keralite meal is a must to savor once. >>



MUNROE ISLAND

The best time to visit the place is during winters when the sun is calmer and not harsh. The season starts normally from November to February. However, if you wish to visit the temple festival, the best time to visit is the last week of January and first week of February. However, don't forget to get your sunscreen and protective clothing, to save yourself the tan.



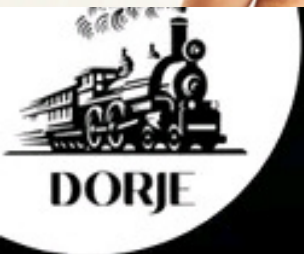
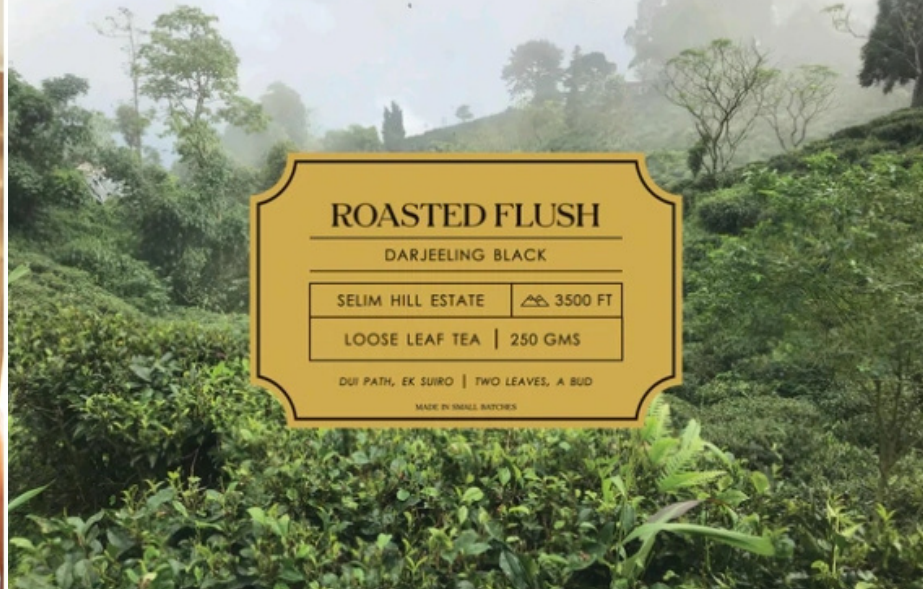
Munroe Island is for those who truly want to enjoy some time in solitude. The chirping of the birds, the bountiful nature and the soothing backwaters helps reconnect.

Munroe Island is undoubtedly one of the best hidden gems of Kerala, with a rustic aura and tranquil. The place is all about its people and getting to know Kerala a little better. With not much of touristic footprint, Munroe Island is one of the best places to explore and experience.

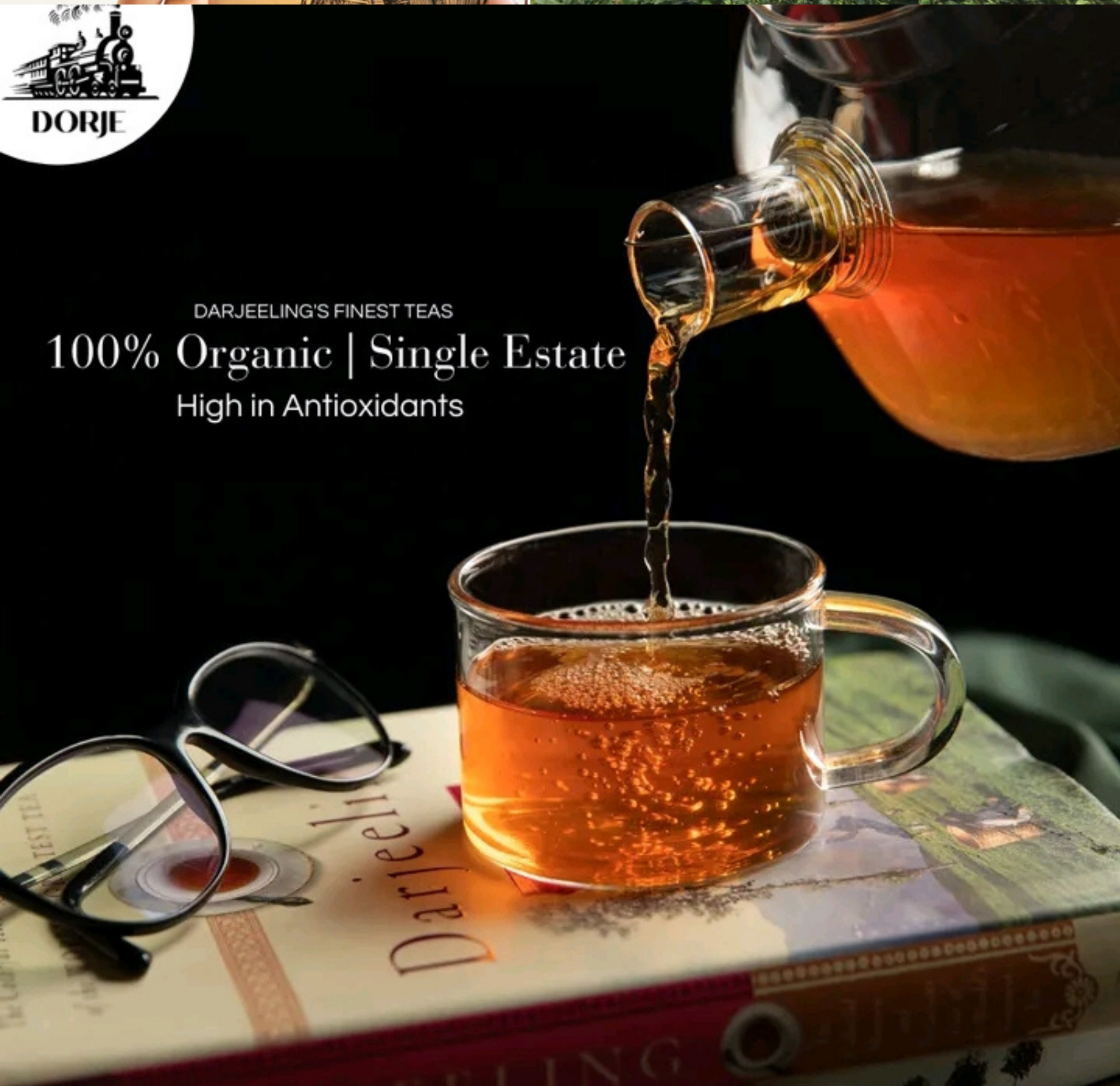
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I am Upasana Kakati. I am an avid traveler, teacher, travel blogger and dreamer. I love uncovering hidden gems and exploring places that offer cultural and perspective per se. I am from North East India and currently making my way to offbeat destinations in North-East and rest of the country. I started this travel blog to pursue my passion for writing, keep the side hustle on and share my travel experiences. As of now I do not have any plans to quit my job to travel full time because I love financial security to a point. But, no one knows what tomorrow has in store.



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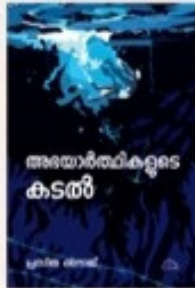
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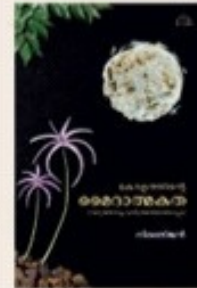
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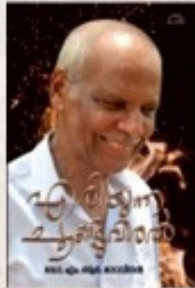
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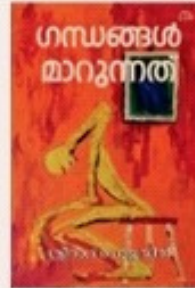
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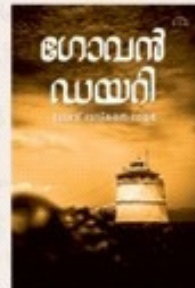
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Walnut Fashioned Cocktail

**Recipe by: Angad Singh
Gandhi, brand ambassador
of Glenfiddich India.**

Method:

- Add whisky, cranberry syrup and bitters over ice in a mixing jar. Stir for 15-20 seconds.
- Smoke a cinnamon stick in an inverted rock glass.
- Add a block of ice and the drink to the smoked rock glass.
- Garnish with burnt lemon and orange peels.
- Serve and relish!

Ingredients:

- 60 ml walnut-infused whisky
- 15 ml home-made cranberry syrup
- 2-3 dashes cinnamon bitters
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 each, lemon and orange peel
- Ice

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**Let's
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This
Year!**

The fifth edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which was postponed twice due to Covid, will be held in all its glory from December 12 this year after the state government allocated Rs 7 crore in the budget for the conduct of the four-month-long art exhibition-cum-festival.

The fifth edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which was to open on December 12, 2020, was first pushed back to November 1, 2021. The event was halted due to Covid and was postponed to December 2021. With the threat of pandemic subsiding, organisers are confident of opening the 5th edition from December 12, 2022.

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